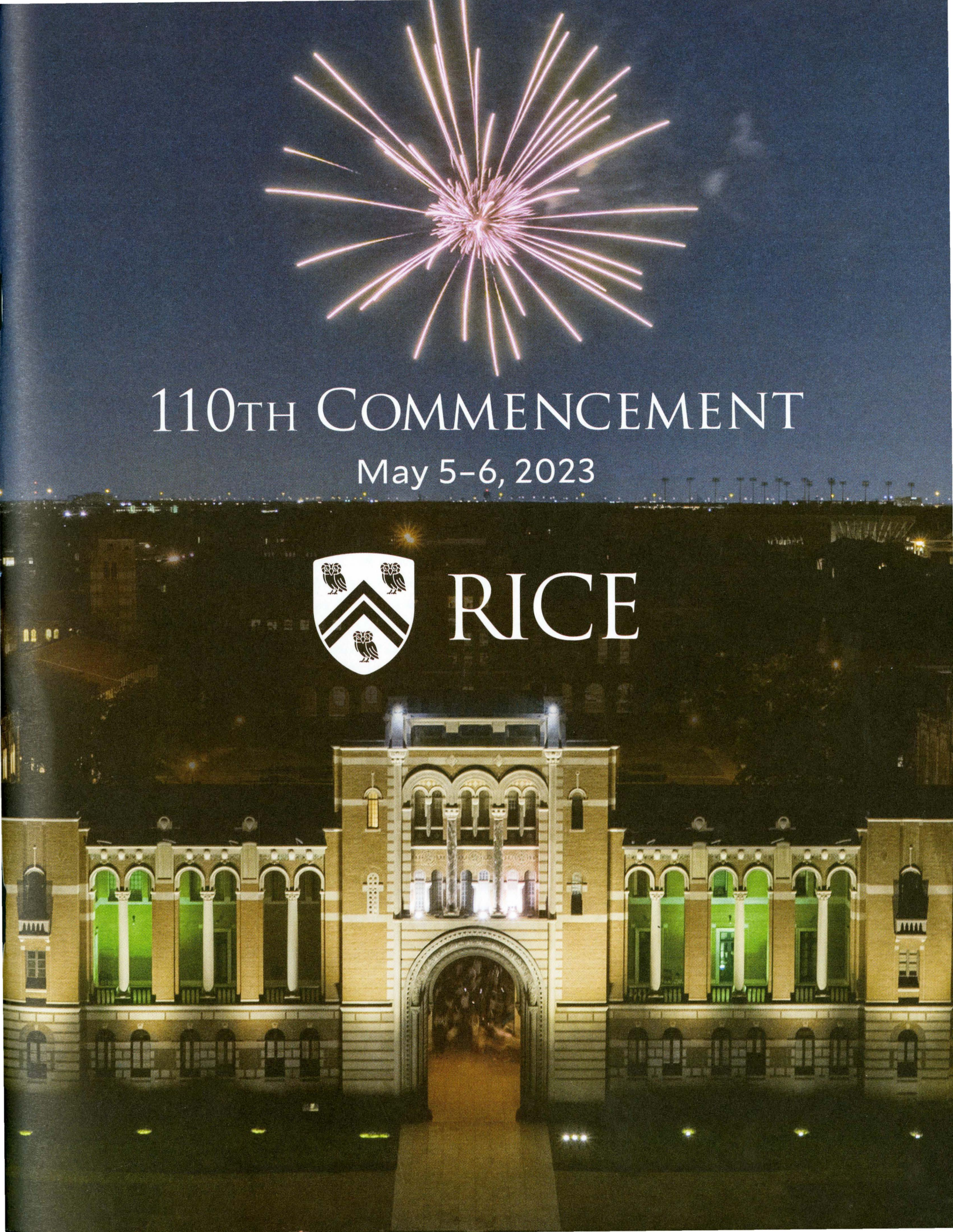
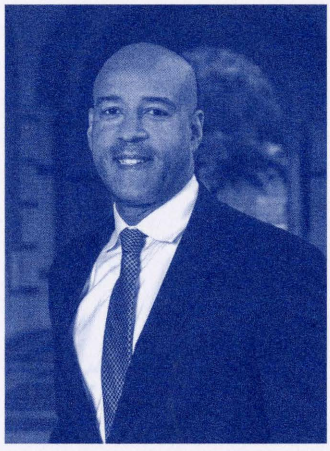


110TH COMMENCEMENT

May 5–6, 2023

RICE

Welcome From the President



Welcome to Rice University's 110th Commencement ceremony! Today, the entire Rice community comes together to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the graduating classes of 2023. These students include those receiving bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. The faculty and staff of Rice are privileged to have played a part in educating such outstanding scholars.

These students will go on to achieve great things and make notable contributions to our world. They will be engaged citizens in a wide variety of endeavors. And they will seek and find solutions to some of society's most challenging problems.

Our graduate students receiving their degrees emerge well prepared for their professions and for making intellectual and creative contributions and discoveries. Our undergraduate students who receive their degrees will symbolically complete their journeys at Rice by exiting through the same Sallyport that they entered when they matriculated as new students. All of our students have grown as scholars and responsible citizens. We are confident the education they have received and the lessons they have learned during their time at Rice have prepared them well for the opportunities that lie ahead.

We extend an especially warm welcome to family members and friends who are joining our students on this special day. Many of you have traveled great distances to celebrate the achievements of your loved one. We know your presence means so much to them, and we hope that the day is deeply meaningful for you as well. We thank you for the support and encouragement you have given them.

The presence of our trustees, faculty, staff and alumni at Commencement demonstrates the pride that our entire university has in these distinguished new graduates. We wish them well in the next chapter of their lives, and we hope they will return to visit their alma mater.

With warm wishes for a bright future,

Reginald DesRoches
President

Doctoral Commencement Ceremony

Tudor Fieldhouse | Saturday, May 6, 2023 | 9 a.m.

Academic Procession
Fred Oswald, *Chief Marshal*

Greeting and Introduction of Platform Guests
Seiichi Matsuda, *Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

Conferral of Degrees
Reginald DesRoches, *President of Rice University*

Doctoral Hooding
Seiichi Matsuda

Congratulatory Remarks
Amy Dittmar, *Howard R. Hughes Provost*

Closing Remarks
Seiichi Matsuda

Recessional
Fred Oswald

Musicians
Emily Richardson, *Violin*
Astrid Nakamura, *Violin*
Gabe Galley, *Viola*
Chris Ellis, *Cello*

Advanced Degrees Commencement Ceremony

Tudor Fieldhouse | Saturday, May 6, 2023 | 2 p.m.

Academic Procession
Fred Oswald, *Chief Marshal*

Greeting and Introduction of Platform Guests
Seiichi Matsuda, *Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

Conferral of Degrees
Reginald DesRoches, *President of Rice University*

Presentation of Degrees
Seiichi Matsuda and Deans of the Academic Schools

Congratulatory Remarks
Amy Dittmar, *Howard R. Hughes Provost*

Closing Remarks
Seiichi Matsuda

Recessional
Fred Oswald

Musicians
Renata Cardoso and Lydia Hanje, *Trumpets*
Connor Landers, *Horn*
Sophie Volpe, *Trombone*
Alex Friedman, *Tuba*

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Rice Stadium | Saturday, May 6, 2023 | 7 p.m.

Musical Introduction
Concert Band
Charles Throckmorton, *Conductor*

Procession
Fred Oswald, *Chief Marshal*

Welcome
Bridget Gorman, *Dean of Undergraduates*

Chairman of the Board
Robert Ladd

President of Rice University
Reginald DesRoches

Student Association Speaker
Gabby Franklin, *Past President, Undergraduate Student Association*

Commencement Speaker
Karine Jean-Pierre

Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates
Bridget Gorman and Residential College Magisters

Conferral of Degrees
Reginald DesRoches

Alma Mater
"Rice's Honor"

All for Rice's Honor, we will fight on.
We will be fighting when this day is done.
And when the dawn comes breaking,
We'll be fighting on, Rice, for the Gray and Blue.
We will be loyal, to Rice be true.

Concluding Remarks
Bridget Gorman

Brass Fanfare
Renata Cardoso and Lydia Hanje, *Trumpets*
Connor Landers, *Horn*
Sophie Volpe, *Trombone*
Kiran Samuel, *Bass Trombone*

Fireworks
Please remain in the seating area until the fireworks display is finished.

2023 Degree Recipients

The recipients whose names are listed hereafter completed their degrees in August 2022, December 2022 or are scheduled to complete degree requirements in May 2023. The information about degrees printed in this program is not official. Inquiries regarding graduates of the university should be directed to the registrar.

Doctor of Philosophy

Maksat Abasov
Dissertation in Economics: Essays in Strategic Communication and Matching Design
Director: Mallesh Pai

Aparna Adumbumkulath
Dissertation in Materials Science and NanoEngineering: Design and Fabrication of Functional Materials in Biomedical Application
Co-Director: Pulickel Ajayan
Co-Director: Ghanashyam Acharya

Paul Andrade Advincula
Dissertation in Chemistry: Synthesis and Applications of Flash Graphene and Flash Joule Heating
Director: James M. Tour

Alejandro Aguilar
Dissertation in Statistics: Topological Data Analysis and theoretical statistical inference for time series dependent data and error in parametric choices
Director: Katherine Ensor

Mohammad Akbarnezhad
Dissertation in Civil and Environmental Engineering: Seismic Design and Performance Assessment of Bridges with SMA-Restrained Rocking Columns
Director: Reginald DesRoches

Mohammed Mubarak Alajmi
Dissertation in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: Phase Behavior Model of Complex Fluids: Associating Solvents to Polymers
Co-Director: Walter G. Chapman
Co-Director: Francisco M. Vargas

Shah Saad Alam
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: Quantum Spinor Gases: Universal Relations, Strong Interactions and Machine Learning Investigations
Director: Han Pu

Leo Alexander
Dissertation in Psychological Sciences: Making Decisions about Adverse Impact: The Influence of Individual and Situational Differences
Director: Fred Oswald

Aliasghar Alizadehmojarad
Dissertation in Chemistry: Covalent and Non-Covalent Functionalization of ssDNA-Wrapped Single-Wall Carbon Nanotubes: Computational and Experimental Studies
Director: R. Bruce Weisman

Yousef Easa Al-Shamlan
Dissertation in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: Mechanistic Investigation of Asphaltene-Induced Fouling in Preheat Trains of Refinery Crude Distillation Units
Director: Walter G. Chapman

Alexander Al-Zubeidi
Dissertation in Chemistry: Plasmonic hot carrier-driven electrochemistry
Director: Stephan Link

Andrea Ameruoso
Dissertation in Biosciences: Developing CRISPR tools for activating silent biosynthetic gene clusters in Streptomyces spp.
Director: James Chappell

Eric McSwain Antley
Dissertation in Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research: A Machine Learning Approach for Quadratic and Linear Programming Value Functions
Co-Director: Andrew Schaefer
Co-Director: Joey Huchette

Chutian Bai
Dissertation in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: Fundamental Insights of Foam Transport in Porous Media Applied to Enhanced Oil Recovery
Co-Director: Lisa Biswal
Co-Director: George Hirasaki

Advait Balaji
Dissertation in Computer Science: Journey into the unknown: graph and machine learning based approaches for improved characterization of novel pathogens
Director: Todd J. Treangen

Asmita Banerjee
Dissertation in Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences: Evaluating changes in high altitude temperature and atmospheric circulation during the last deglaciation using clumped isotopic composition of oxygen in polar ice cores
Director: Laurence Y. Yeung

CJ Barberan
Dissertation in Electrical and Computer Engineering: NeuroView: Explainable Deep Network Decision Making
Director: Richard G. Baraniuk

Matthew Linden Bedell
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Development of Novel Bioinks for Studying Multi-Material Architecture within Osteochondral Tissue Engineering
Director: Antonios G. Mikos

Asia Bento
Dissertation in Sociology: Displaced Opportunities: The Differential Impacts of Bank Branch Openings in Racially Segregated Neighborhoods
Director: Tony N. Brown

Jordan Bluford
Dissertation in Biosciences: Analyzing the effects of random mutations on ferredoxin-mediated electron transfer using a cellular assay
Director: Jonathan Silberg

Andrei Bonteanu
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Engineering Hyaluronic Acid Hydrogels to Enable Ex Vivo 3D Culture of Patient Derived Xenografts and Associated Stroma in a Perfusable Microfluidic Platform
Director: Daniel A. Harrington

David Roberto Brenes
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Integration of Multimodal, Multiscale Imaging and Biomarker Data for Squamous Precancer Detection and Diagnosis
Director: Rebecca Richards-Kortum

Kathleen Nicole Brown
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Development of a Toolkit to Investigate Endocardial Endothelial Cellular Response in Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Pathologies
Director: Jane Grande-Allen

Kristin Ann Bryant
Dissertation in Political Science: Essays on Human Rights: Protecting and Promoting Human Rights at Home and Abroad
Director: Brett Ashley Leeds

Carlos Andres Bueno Basurco
Dissertation in Systems, Synthetic and Physical Biology: Mesoscale Models for the Study of Emergent Behaviors Arising from Protein Interactions
Director: Peter Wolynes

Dominique Burrows
Dissertation in Psychological Sciences: Unemployed but Resilient: A Model of Resilience Predictors and Outcomes during the Job Search Process
Director: Danielle King

Ao Cai
Dissertation in Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences: Advances in seismic time-domain early-arrival waveform inversion and deep-learning-based surface wave tomography
Director: Colin A. Zelt

Zhen Cao
Dissertation in Computer Science: Towards More Accurate Phylogenetic Network Inference
Director: Luay Nakhleh

Raul S. Casarez
Dissertation in Sociology: Who "We" Are: Examining Identity Ascription, Americanness, and Immigrant Integration through Race and National Identity
Director: Jenifer L. Bratter

Samuel Castro Pardo
Dissertation in Chemistry: Synthesis and electrochemical evaluation of active materials for energy storage applications
Director: Pulickel M. Ajayan

Danyel Eduardo Cavazos Cavazos
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: Spin-charge separation in a 1D Fermi gas with tunable interactions
Director: Randall G. Hulet

Constantinos C. Chamzas
Dissertation in Computer Science: Retrieval-Based Learning for Efficient High-DoF Motion Planning
Director: Lydia Kavraki

Andersen Tze-Heng Chang
Dissertation in Statistics: Graphical Models for Functional Neuronal Connectivity
Director: Genevera Allen

Megan Ming Chang
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Genotyping Strategies in Point-of-Care Isothermal Nucleic Acid Tests for Improved Disease Management in Low-Resource Settings
Director: Rebecca Richards-Kortum

Nicholas Edward Charron
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: Machine Learning Coarse Grained Molecular Force Fields With Graph Neural Networks
Director: Cecilia Clementi

Ashesh Kumar Chattopadhyay
Dissertation in Mechanical Engineering: Theoretical and Applied Deep Learning for Turbulence
Director: Pedram Hassanzadeh

Tamunonye A. Cheetham-West
Dissertation in Mathematics: Finite Quotients of Hyperbolic 3-Manifold Groups
Director: Alan Reid

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, *continued*

Joshua Chih-Lun Chen
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Magnetoelectric Materials for Wireless Battery-free Bioelectronics
Director: Jacob T. Robinson

Lebing Chen
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: Spin Excitations in Honeycomb vand der Waals Magnetic Insulators
Director: Pengcheng Dai

LiYang Chen
Dissertation in Applied Physics: Noise measurement in strongly correlated systems
Director: Douglas Natelson

Michelle Ai-Lien Chen
Dissertation in Psychological Sciences: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Individual Differences among Demential Spousal Caregivers: A Biobehavioral Approach to Stress Across the Lifespan
Director: Christopher Fagundes

Weiyin Chen
Dissertation in Chemistry: Joule heating routes for nanomaterial synthesis and surface modification for nanoscale applications
Director: James Tour

Yuxuan Cheng
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Sequencing and Molecular Technique-powered Profiling of DNA Biomarkers in Biomedical Applications
Director: Omid Veiseh

Zhihua Cheng
Dissertation in Chemistry: Symmetry Reduction in the Self-Assembly of Anisotropic Nanoparticles
Director: Matthew R. Jones

Letitia Kai-Ling Chim
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Tissue-Engineered Microenvironments to Model Mechanical Cues and Tumor-Associated Macrophages on Osteosarcoma
Director: Antonios Mikos

Mithil Chokshi
Dissertation in Bioengineering: Genome Editing Strategies to Cure Cystic Fibrosis
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Dissertation in Mechanical Engineering: A tribological investigation into the wear and lifetime prediction of metal on plastic artificial hip implants
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Dissertation in Electrical and Computer Engineering: Kernel Sum Sketches for Large-Scale Learning
Director: Anshumali Shrivastava

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Dissertation in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: Oxygenation Catalysis to Enable Sustainable Chemical Production and Wastewater Treatment
Director: Michael S. Wong

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Dissertation in Bioengineering: Integrating Multimodal Optical Imaging Systems for Interactive Clinician Guidance for Cancer Detection and Resection
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Amirmohammad Kazempouresmati
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Pavan Kumar Kota
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Co-Director: Richard Baraniuk

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, *continued*

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Dissertation in Economics: Essays on Matching Markets
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Co-Director: YinHua He

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Cheuk Sun Edwin Lai
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Kwei-Herng Lai
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Michael Austin Lara
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Director: Rajdeep Dasgupta

Seung Hwan Lee
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Director: Ramon Gonzalez

Daniel Emmit LeJeune
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Shuyi Li
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Director: Andriy Nevidomskyy

Mingrui Liang
Dissertation in Statistics: Bayesian Models for mHealth Data in Smoking Cessation Studies
Director: Marina Vannucci

Shaoheng Liang
Dissertation in Computer Science: Interpretable and Efficient Machine Learning in Cancer Biology
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Co-Director: Luay Nakhleh

James Liman
Dissertation in Bioengineering: The role of actin-binding proteins in shaping the dynamics and structures of actomyosin networks
Director: Margaret S. Cheung

Huiming Lin
Dissertation in Statistics: Uncertainty quantification in high-dimensional models and post-selection procedures
Director: Meng Li

Jason Ling
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: Characterization of Radio Emission from Young Stellar Objects
Director: Andrea Isella

Kexin Ling
Dissertation in Chemistry: Synthesis, Modifications, and Applications of Porous Nanostructures
Director: Angel A. Marti

Chunshan Liu
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Co-Director: Daniel Kowal
Co-Director: Marina Vannucci

Weidi Liu
Dissertation in Applied Physics: Developing Compressive Sensing in Electron Microscopy and Gas Phase Spectroscopy
Director: Kevin F. Kelly

Xiao Liu
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Director: Shiva Sivaramakrishnan

Zhuohe Liu
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Director: Francois St-Pierre

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Dissertation in Political Science: The impacts of violence on the electoral and political behavior of civilians: Evidence from Colombia
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Charles Kane Lotterman
Dissertation in Anthropology: The Power of the Personal: Science and Society in Postsocialist Czech Republic
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Ge Lou
Dissertation in Civil and Environmental Engineering: Advancing methods for wastewater disease surveillance of antibiotic resistance and SARS-CoV-2
Director: Lauren B. Stadler

Minghe Lou
Dissertation in Chemistry: Plasmonic Photodecomposition of Gas-phase Toxic Molecules
Director: Naomi J. Halas

Xiaotong Lu
Dissertation in Biosciences: Structural and Biochemical Characterization of the Influenza D Virus Matrix Protein Reveals its Mechanisms for Membrane and vRNP Association
Director: Yizhi Jane Tao

Yen-Chu Lu
Dissertation in Chemistry: Radical Transformations Enabled by Earth-Abundant Element Metals
Director: Julian West

Bochuan Lyu
Dissertation in Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research: Biclique Partitions, Biclique Covers, and Disjunctive Constraints
Director: Illya V. Hicks

Akash Kumar Maity
Dissertation in Electrical and Computer Engineering: Camera-based Tissue Hemodynamics Imaging
Director: Ashutosh Sabharwal

Tiffany Bisbey Manghnani
Dissertation in Psychological Sciences: Shouting into the Void: A Qualitative Study Towards a Grounded Theory of Voice Receptivity
Director: Eduardo Salas

Mae Markowski
Dissertation in Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research: Efficient Solution of Smoothed Risk-Averse PDE-Constrained Optimization Problems
Director: Matthias Heikenschloss

Andrew Marshall
Dissertation in Physics and Astronomy: MMS Observations of Secondary Reconnection X-Lines and the Unexpected Phenomena Surrounding Them
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Prithve Kiran Shekar
Dorothy C. Soto
Dylan Ike Ueyama-Burke
Hannah Ngo Usadi
Gerardo Vega
Vi T. Vo
Tiffany Mai-Phuong Vuong
Divya Vinay Wagh
Edward Davis Walker
Austin Drew Wilding
Michael Mengistu Woldeab
Kelly Yuli Xu
Lingyi Xu
Joshua William Yang
Kaitlyn Renee Zdrojewski
Mingde Zeng
Steven Zhao
Ziqin Zhu

Bachelor of Music

Joshua Rate Berg
Ryan Blankenburg
Willard Roscoe Bussell
Connor Patrick Chaikowsky
Suzie S. Chang
Daniel J. Cho
Sanne Jane Christensen
Nathan Christian Cloeter
Samuel Robert Dusinberre
Alexander Samuel Friedman
Sean Gao
Faustina Housner
Minjee Kim
Ayane Candy Nakajima
Julia Anjali Su
Lucas Craig Vogelman
Xiaoping Wang
Teddi Jimin Yoo

Distinction in Research and Creative Work

Mark Anthony Abboud
BioSciences

Chima Adiole
Computer Science

Hafsa Ahsan
Anthropology

Anna Katerina Arroyos
Psychological Sciences

Joseph A. Asfouri
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Bradley Robert Bolton
Mechanical Engineering

Max Aksel Bowman
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Prathik Reddy Boyella
Physics and Astronomy

Maria Budin
Psychological Sciences

Alyssa Bernadette Villarente Cahoy
English
Kinesiology

Melissa Guadalupe Carmona
Sociology

Claire Brooks Castellano
Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Wen-Jou Chang
Computer Science

Daniel J. Cho
The Shepherd School of Music

Neil Chopra
BioSciences

Anna Yumi Chung
Chemistry

Daniel Alec Cohen
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Kaitlyn D. Crowley
Medical Humanities
Sociology

Aedan Stanley Cullen
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

YuLing DeBellis
BioSciences
Visual and Dramatic Arts

Shelby Theresa Desroches
Bioengineering

Hazel Saoirse Tecumse Disney-McKeethen
BioSciences

Travis Jefferson Dowd
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Timofey Dmitriyevich Efimov
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Julia Paige Engelhardt
Cognitive Sciences

Can Erdogan
Statistics

Angela Ling Fan
Medical Humanities

Elliot M. Fang
Physics and Astronomy

Joseph Antonio Flores
History

Morgan A. Gage
English

Anne X. Gao
BioSciences
Kinesiology

Bryn Sophia Gerwin
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Joseph Erich Gioia
Computer Science

Saiabhiroop R. Govindu
BioSciences

Catherine Elaine Grimme
Psychological Sciences

Justin Ariah Guilak
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Lingkun Guo
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Sophia Scout Hafner
BioSciences

Zhi Mei Sonia He
Chemistry

Daniel Kenneth Helmeci
Political Science

Elena Grace Hoyt
English

George A. Hung
Kinesiology

Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra
History

Shreya Jain
Medical Humanities

Annette Jean Jones
Chemistry

Brandon Nicholas Khek
Physics and Astronomy

Jayaker Sai Kolli
Center for Civic Leadership

Seoyun Kong
Materials Science and NanoEngineering

Chawit Kritpracha
Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research

Evan Lenkeit
Chemistry

Nicole Genevieve P. Lhuillier
Art History

Matan Alon Lieber-Kotz
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Jiani Liu
Architecture

Terri-Jeanne Esther Liu
BioSciences
Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

Jonathan Lloyd
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Julia Frances Love
Chemistry

Rebecca Caitlin Mak
Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures
Social Policy Analysis

Aurian Ray Maleki
BioSciences

Alison Marie Maniace
Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

Sujay Pavansai Marisetty
BioSciences

Casley Rose Matthews
Kinesiology

Pranav Vikram Mehta
BioSciences

Andrei Mitrofan
Bioengineering

Kristina Virgilia Montez
Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research

Josselyn Saiasi Munoz
Cognitive Sciences

Benjamin Ericson Murdoch
Linguistics

Praneeta Anjanasai Nalluri
Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research

Annika Nambiar
BioSciences

David Takuma Nemoto
Chemistry

Zainab Naduvilepurayil Niaz
BioSciences

Rebekah Julie Park
Kinesiology

Sarah Kim Park
Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Manshi P. Patel
Medical Humanities

Vinay Kumar Pattalachinti
BioSciences

Stephanie Pecaut
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Stephen Peng
BioSciences

Mackenzie Kaitlyn Pickett
Art History

Emilia Pitchon
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Stella Nicole Potemkin
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Tanuj Jitendra Prajapati
BioSciences

Sarah Lucille Preston
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Zhiqin Qian
Computer Science

Anna Rajagopal
English

Bavan Pragash Rajan
Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences

Arvind Vignesh Ramesh
BioSciences

Phillis Michelle Range
Psychological Sciences

Zachary Thomas Rewolinski
Statistics

Natan Armando Rivera
Mechanical Engineering

Juan Manuel Rubio
Sociology

Arnav Sankaranthi
Medical Humanities

Lindsey Eleanor Schirn
Sociology

Ana Victoria Serna
Chemistry

Spencer Thomas Shah
Bioengineering

Julia Jiazhen Shi
Kinesiology

Rachel Anna Shoemaker
BioSciences

Rishi Vignesh Shridharan
BioSciences

Carla Aysem Sipahioglu
Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK, *continued*

Anika Sonig
BioSciences
Cognitive Sciences

Yumin Su
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Alisha Swadi
BioSciences

Neha Tallapragada
BioSciences

Filemon Chiou Tan
BioSciences

Mabel Shumeng Tang
Medical Humanities

Savannah Jean Tiemann
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Beyhan Gulnihal Tomur
Chemistry

Mbonobong O. Usua
Center for Civic Leadership
Psychological Sciences

Mayuri Hana Vaish
BioSciences

Jeffrey Alejandro Vanegas
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Camille Francesca Villar
English

Grace Nicole Walters
Linguistics

Emily Wang
BioSciences

Karen Wang
BioSciences

Xiaoping Wang
The Shepherd School of Music

Bria Taylor Weisz
Visual and Dramatics Arts

MaeLea Monina Williams
Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Tsz Wan Vivian Wong
Bioengineering

Samuel Roy Woodley
Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

Elysia J. Wu
Center for Civic Leadership

Katherine P. Wu
Medical Humanities

Linda Ling Wu
Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Lingyi Xu
Mechanical Engineering

Jin Yan
Psychological Sciences

Emma Rachel Yang
BioSciences

Teddi Jimin Yoo
The Shepherd School of Music

Boyang Yu
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Kaitlyn Renee Zdrojewski
Mechanical Engineering

Daihan Zhang
Computational Applied Mathematics and Operations Research

Mingjian Zhu
Physics and Astronomy

Ziqin Zhu
Mechanical Engineering

Honors, Prizes and Awards to Faculty, Staff and Alumni

Association of Rice Alumni Distinguished Alumni Awards
Gilda Barabino '86
Sandra K. Johnson '88
Andy Karsner '89
Eric Nelson '83
Ikhlas Sabouni '81, '87

Association of Rice Alumni Gold Medal
Kathleen Shive Matthews
Scott W. Wise '71

Association of Rice Alumni Meritorious Service Awards
Donald Bowers '90
John R. Eldridge '75
Andrea Galindo Escamilla
Frank Jones '58, '61
Tamara Siler '86

C.M. and Demaris Hudspeth Endowed Award for Student Life and Clubs
Jennifer Applebee
Hannes Hofer

Charles W. Duncan Jr. Achievement Award for Outstanding Faculty
Anshumali Shrivastava
Aryeh Warmflash

Elizabeth Gillis Award
Tina Villard

George R. Brown Awards for Superior Teaching
Marcia Brennan
Amelie Carlton
Philip A. Ernst
Bilal Ghosn
Mary Greitzer
Betul Orcan-Ekmekci
Tom Stallings
Lora Wildenthal
Vida Yao

George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching
Despina Colette Nicolaou

George R. Brown School of Engineering Award for Excellence in Teaching
Elizabeth Jennings McGuffey

George R. Brown School of Engineering Curriculum Innovation Award
Andrew J. Schaefer

George R. Brown School of Engineering Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Adviser Award
Katherine Bennett Ensor
Jeffrey D. Hartgerink

George R. Brown School of Engineering Outstanding Faculty Research Award
Jun Lou

George R. Brown School of Engineering Outstanding Postdoctoral Research Award
Vishwanath Saragadam Raja Venkata

George R. Brown School of Engineering Rising Star Award
Elizabeth Hutchinson

George R. Brown School of Engineering Roy E. Campbell Faculty Development Award
Yimo Han

George R. Brown School of Engineering Teaching and Research Excellence Award
Taiyun Chi
Xia Hu
Thomas Senftle

George R. Brown School of Engineering Young Faculty Research Award
Ang Chen

Graduate Liberal Studies John Freeman Faculty Teaching and Mentoring Award
Newell D. Boyd
Alma Novotny

Hardy M. Bourland Award for Distinguished Service
Danielle Rossi
Nichole Wood

Marjorie Corcoran Award
Mikki Hebl

Mary McIntire Staff Excellence Award
Kim Raptis

Nicolas Salgo Distinguished Teacher Award
Travis Alexander

Presidential Award for Mentoring
Elaine Howard Ecklund
Arthur Gottschalk

Provost's Award for Outstanding Doctoral Advisor
Jeffrey D. Hartgerink
Pulickel Ajayan

Provost's Award for Outstanding Early-Career Achievement
Danielle King
Lauren Stadler

Provost's Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement
Jun Lou
Timothy Morton

Rice University Faculty Award for Excellence in Professional Service and Leadership

Rice University Faculty Award for Excellence in Professional Service and Leadership
Eden King
Maria Oden

Rice University Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching and Service
Jeffrey Kripal
Anthony Várilly-Alvarado

Rice University Faculty Award for Excellence in University Service and Leadership
Jenifer Bratter

Rice University Student Association Staff Mentor Award
Bridget K. Gorman

Sarah A. Burnett Teaching Prize in Social Sciences
Bryce McCleary

Sophia Meyer Farb Prize for Teaching
Brittany Utting

Student-Taught Course Teaching Award
Krithi Pachipala '22
Rishi Kuppachi Vas '22

Wiess School of Natural Sciences Award for Outstanding Teaching
Jamie Catanese

Wiess School of Natural Sciences Exemplary Faculty Award
Anthony Várilly-Alvarado

Wiess School of Natural Sciences Ruth Parks Award for Distinguished Service
Abby Vacek

Prizes and Awards to Degree Recipients

Alan Grob Prize
Elysia J. Wu

Ann and Joe Hightower Superior Award in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Savannah Jean Tiemann

Arthur L. Draper Award in Chemistry
Anna Yumi Chung
Zhi Mei Sonia He
Annette Jean Jones
Evan Lenkeit
Julia Frances Love
David Takuma Nemoto Jr.
Ana Victoria Serna
Beyhan Gulnihal Tomur

Barbara Field Kennedy Prize in American History
John Mayer Crum

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
Joseph A. Asfouri

Bill Wilson Prize for Best Electrical and Computer Engineering Design
Son Phu Nguyen
Vedant Patwari
Oscar Leonardo Reynozo
Nicolas Craig Rossi
Elijah Matthew Schwartz
Nicholas I. Thevenin

Bioengineering Outstanding Design Project Award
Sofia Aguilera
Travis Jefferson Dowd
Ariadna Gomez
Emily Ruth McAmis

Bioengineering Outstanding Senior Award
Travis Jefferson Dowd
Vanessa Marie Garlepp
Yannie Shannon Guo
Andrei Mitrofan
Phuc Huu Nguyen

Biosciences Award for Outstanding Leadership
Andrea Ameruoso
YuLing DeBellis
Mayuri Hana Gupta

Biosciences Award for Outstanding Research
YuLing DeBellis
Saiabhiroop R. Govindu
Stephen Peng
Rachel Anna Shoemaker
Filemon Chiou Tan

BP Prize for Best Research Paper on Energy Economics
Haotian Ye

Byron Pope Award for Outstanding Performance in Master of Energy Economics
Jesus Rodriguez

Capt. Charles Septimus Longcope Award in History
Cyma Sami Farah

Caroline S. and David L. Minter Award for Outstanding Essay
Lily Marie Weeks

Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality Sherry Matusoff Merfish Award
Mikayla K. Hurley

Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality Undergraduate Best Essay Prize
Lily Marie Weeks
Christine Alicia Wu

Chair's Best Dissertation Prize in English
Solveig Asta Sigurdardottir

Charles Garside Jr. Prize in History
Melissa Guadalupe Carmona
Joseph Antonio Flores
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra
Paige A. Russell
Lindsey Eleanor Schirn
Grace Elizabeth Stewart

Christine Croneis Sayres Memorial Scholarship in Art History
Sarah Herring
Mackenzie Kaitlyn Pickett

Civil and Environmental Engineering Award for Outstanding Senior
Jacob Alexander Morgan

Clanton Winston Medical School Scholarship
Grace Elizabeth Forbes

Department of Spanish and Portuguese Cervantes Award for Outstanding Seniors
Alekhya Gurram
Alexander Herrera
Grace Kathryn Kneidel
Helena Maria Nammour
Danielle Botros Rizk
Karinna E. Romero
Kayla Elizabeth Shelkey
Georgina Lourdes Woodworth
Liza Yusem Carstens

Department of Spanish and Portuguese Dr. James A. Castañeda Award for Best Essay in Golden Age Literature
Helena Maria Nammour
Kayla Elizabeth Shelkey

Department of Spanish and Portuguese María Teresa Leal Honors Thesis Prize
Karinna E. Romero

Dr. and Mrs. David M. Mumford Endowed Award
Andrea Estefania Cedillo Ornelas
Sahi Priya Puvvala

Dr. Hubert E. Bray Scholar Athlete of the Year
Daniel Alec Cohen

Dr. Joy Browne Award for Outstanding Senior in Cognitive Sciences
Josselyn Saiasi Munoz

Dr. Michael A. and Donna Kidwell Gibson Undergraduate Leadership Award in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Ruoyu Qian

Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Kevin Mitchell Gaastra

Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award
Lingkun Guo

Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences Sam Worden Endowed Memorial Fund in Geophysics
Celine Fliedner

Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences Torkild Rieber Award in Geology
Asmita Banerjee
Emilia Pitchon

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award
Joshua Clark Fowler

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Aerospace or Transportation Technology Award
Daniel Alec Cohen
Nicholas Ryan Ess
Jonathan Lloyd
Steven Zhao

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Conceptual or Computational Engineering Design Award
Oluwatonamise Okikijesu Akerele
Kristina Virgilia Montez
Ruoyu Qian
Jeffrey Alejandro Vanegas
Benjamin William Walls

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Energy-Related Engineering Design Award
Esha Rene Ghai
Zainab Naduvilepurayil Niaz
Stephanie Pecaut

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Gaming, Creative or Innovative Technology Award
Aedan Stanley Cullen

PRIZES AND AWARDS TO DEGREE RECIPIENTS, *continued*

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Interdisciplinary Engineering Design Award
Elise Marie Erickson
Vanshika Parag Jhonsa
Alison Marie Maniace

Engineering Design Showcase: Best Medical Device Technology Award
Joseph A. Asfouri
Yining Chen
Corbin T. Cowden
Liam Andrew Merva
Benjamin Dale Moffat
Phuc Huu Nguyen
Wilawan Poltanawasit
Sophia Grace Rowlett
Vi T. Vo
Shufan Yin

Excellence in Academic Advising Award to Peer Academic Advisors
Brian Cui
Yea Won Lee
Sarah Lucille Preston
Yessenia Ramos Silva

Excellence in Capstone Engineering Design
Freddy Andres Angarita-Cuesta
Abigail Grace Dowse
Anna C. Frey
Yannie Shannon Guo
Jessica Nicole Kies
Alan Lopez
Oliver William MacGregor
Wyeth Michael Kuntz McKinley
Andrei Mitrofan
Jihyun Park
Scarlett Amy Spindler
Kelly Yuli Xu

Fiona Tolhurst Memorial Award
Lily Marie Weeks

Gaston Rimlinger Prize
Jiayue Mao

George J. Schroepfer Jr. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research in Biochemistry
Hazel Saoirse Tecumse Disney-McKeethen

George J. Schroepfer Jr. Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Aubrey Gaylon Adam Howard IV
Melissa Sue Traver

George J. Schroepfer Jr. Award for Outstanding Published Research in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Shikai Jin

George R. Brown School of Engineering and Rice Engineering Alumni Award for Outstanding Seniors
Vanessa Marie Garlepp
Ellen Kasradze
Seoyun Kong
Andrew Zerui Li
Jacob Alexander Morgan
Praneeta Anjanasai Nalluri
Eliot Hutton Solomon
Alexa B. Thomases
Savannah Jean Tiemann

Gilbert L. Hermance Award in Kinesiology — Health Sciences
Casley Rose Matthews

Gilbert L. Hermance Award in Kinesiology — Sports Medicine
Grace Elizabeth Forbes

Graham C. Stebbings College Service Award
Chanel Ericsson

Henrietta Wood Memorial Prize
Joseph Antonio Flores

Hershel M. Rich Invention Award
Xiaochuan Huang
Amanda Nash
Siraj Sidhik

Honors in Cognitive Sciences
Julia Paige Engelhardt

Honors in Economics
Jiayue Mao
Haotian Ye

Honors in History
Joseph Antonio Flores
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra

Honors in Psychological Sciences
Daniel Luis Argueta
Maria Budin
Catherine Elaine Grimme
Jin Yan
Michelle Elizabeth Yang

Houston Gas Processors Association Annual Scholarship
Esha Rene Ghai

Houston Gas Processors Association Endowed Scholarship
Zainab Naduvilepurayil Niaz

Hugh Scott Cameron Service Award from the Student Association
Adrien Alexandre Quant

Ira and Patricia Gruber Award for Best Honors Thesis
Joseph Antonio Flores
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra

James R. Thompson Graduate Student Award in Statistics
Zijian Zeng

James R. Thompson Undergraduate Student Award in Statistics
Joseph Roland Belinkof Feldman

James S. Waters Creativity Award
Yining Chen
Andrei Mitrofan

James Street Fulton Prize for Excellence in Philosophy
Elliot M. Fang

Jenessa Shapiro Award for Best Undergraduate Thesis
Jin Yan

Jennifer and Purvez Captain Award for Outstanding Economics Dissertation
Omer Faruk Sozbir

Jesse Tsu Sport Management Academic Achievement Award
Carlos Daniel Rivera

Jimmy Disch Sport Analytics Award
Jacob Michael Kauffman

John P. McGovern Outstanding Premedical Student Award
Rishi Vignesh Shridharan
Matthew Christopher Yonas

John W. Brelsford Award for Superior Scholarship, Leadership or Service
Mbonobong O. Usua

John W. Gardner Award in Humanities
John Mayer Crum

Joyce Pounds Hardy Award for Outstanding Female Athlete
Grace Elizabeth Forbes

Kathleen S. Matthews Teaching and Mentoring Award
Rishi Vignesh Shridharan

Kenneth R. Laughery Award for Best Master's Thesis in Psychology
Lorena Alexandra Ferguson

Kristen and Michael Arnett Award in Art History
Nicole Genevieve P. Lhuillier

Kristine Wallace Prize
Fiona Sullivan Garrison

Leland Winston M.D. Courage and Diligence Award
Zoe L. Spitz

PRIZES AND AWARDS TO DEGREE RECIPIENTS, *continued*

Leroy C. Gibbon Award in Geology
Sizhuang Deng
Michael Austin Lara

Lindsay Roemmich Sport Management Achievement Award
Sofia Elena Roa

Linguistics Prize for Excellence
Benjamin Ericson Murdoch
Grace Nicole Walters

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts
Ayane Candy Nakajima
Mackenzie Kaitlyn Pickett

Malcolm Gillis Award in Economics
Alejandro Miguel Escobedo
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra
Adrienne Li

Malcolm Gillis Prize in Mathematical Economic Analysis
Cheng Peng

Margie E. Sass Scholar Athlete of the Year
Haley C. Allen

Max Freund Prize in German Studies
Samuel Roy Woodley

Nazim S. Nathoo Award for Engineering Excellence
Anna C. Frey

Patricia and Robert H. Parks Jr. Prize for Excellence in Economics
Grace Kathryn Kneidel

Pi Delta Phi André Bourgeois Award in French
Terri-Jeanne Esther Liu

"R" Association J. Fred Duckett Postgraduate Scholarship
Maria Budin

"R" Association Margie E. Sass Postgraduate Scholarship
Grace Elizabeth Forbes

Ralph Budd Thesis Award
Yang Zhao

RCEL Engineering Leadership Award
Mariam Aderinsola Okunubi

Rice Engineering Alumni Association Leadership Excellence Award
Vanessa Marie Garlepp

Rice Engineering Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award
Seoyun Kong

Rice Engineering Alumni Association R.K.M. "Bob" Dickson Endowed Prize
Fadeel Sher Khan

Rice Engineering Alumni Association Research Excellence Award
Chima Adiole
Joseph A. Asfouri
Colter Joe Decker
Savannah Jean Tiemann
Jeffrey Alejandro Vanegas
Tsz Wan Vivian Wong

Rice Scholar Athletes of the Year
Haley C. Allen
Frank Wesley Barnett
Thomas Lynn Bockholt
Daniel Alec Cohen
Katelyn Keone Crosthwait
Corbett Stanton Fong
Isaac Norman Klarkowski
Benjamin Dale Moffat
Julie Diane Perez
Delaney Louise Schultz
Zoe L. Spitz
Samuel Roy Woodley
Liza Yusem Carstens

Robert H. Parks Jr. Prize for Excellence in Engineering Leadership
Joseph Richard Urso

Saba Prize
Zahrah Butler
Suzanne Frances Harms

Sallyport Award
Mario David Escobar
Catherine Yunshin Lee

Senior Award for Service to Linguistics
Sarah Kim Park

Student Association Outstanding Seniors
Malaika Joy Bergner
Saanya Bhargava
Nicholas Ryan Ess
Cynthia Adriana Gonzalez
Daniel Kenneth Helmeci
Marina Karki
Jayaker Sai Kolli
Danielle Sara Knobloch
Asha Kartini Malani
Anesu Karen Murambadoro
Madelynn Ariel Salinas
Mbonobong O. Usua

Sunit Patel '85 Endowed Fellowship Award
Christian L. Conrad
Qichen Yuan

Teaching Award for Student-Taught Courses
Andrea Lara Lin

Texas Society of Professional Engineers Outstanding Senior Engineering Students
Vanessa Marie Garlepp
Ellen Kasradze
Seoyun Kong
Jacob Alexander Morgan
Alexa B. Thomases
Savannah Jean Tiemann

Texas Society of Professional Engineers Overall Outstanding Senior Engineering Student
Seoyun Kong

Weber-Durkheim Prize for Excellence in Sociology
Lindsey Eleanor Schirn

William C. Howell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Scholarship
Linda Ling Wu

Willy Revolution Award for Outstanding Innovation
Phuc Huu Nguyen
Vedant Patwari
Oscar Leonardo Reynozo
Nicolas Craig Rossi
Eunice Tzenuo Tan
Nicholas I. Thevenin

Woods-Leazar Innovation Award
Ellice Yue Gao
Bryn Sophia Gerwin
Justin Ariah Guilak
Rosemary Pauline Lach
Renly Liu

Zevi and Bertha Salsburg Memorial Fellowship in Chemistry
Zhi Mei Sonia He
Evan Lenkeit
Julia Frances Love
Ana Victoria Serna
Beyhan Gulnihal Tomur

Honorary Societies

AGLSP National Honor Society

Valerie Leigh Calvillo
Sue Covert Frusco
Lisa Isaacson
Andrew Rogers
John Uri

Alpha Kappa Delta

Melissa Guadalupe Carmona
Kaitlyn D. Crowley
Kate Suzanna Jablonski
Elizabeth Reynolds Kuhlman
Warda Ahmed Mohamed
Anh Ha Nguyen
Ethan Ray Perryman
Juan Manuel Rubio
Lindsey Eleanor Schirn

Eta Kappa Nu

Joseph A. Asfouri
Max Aksel Bowman
Timofey Dmitriyevich Efimov
Justin Ariah Guilak
Hantong Hu
Rosemary Pauline Lach
Oliver William MacGregor
Son Phu Nguyen
Clayton William Ramsey
Nicolas Craig Rossi
Yulei Shen
Yumin Su
Michael Jerhau Tang
Alexa B. Thomases

Phi Beta Kappa

Mark Anthony Abboud
David Ai
Pablo Andres Alarcon
Karla E. Alcala Orozco
Jeremy Isaac Alpert
John Philip Bodnar
Hunter Clayton Brown
Brett Hite Bussey
Melissa Guadalupe Carmona
Andrea Estefania Cedillo Ornelas
Wen-Jou Chang
Madeleine Jo Cluck
Kaitlyn D. Crowley
Jenna Diab
Margaret Elizabeth Dorsey
Alejandro Miguel Escobedo
Angela Ling Fan
Joseph Antonio Flores
Smaran Garlapati
Sophia Scout Hafner
Suzanne Frances Harms
Erin M. Harrison
Sarah Herring
William Travis Heston
Amy Lin Ho
George A. Hung
Su Jung Hur
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra
Nisa Naz Ilsin
Ridwana Faiz Islam
Shreya Jain
Neha Rao Kalakuntla
Halie Kang
Aanika Kashyap
Julia Gaeun Kim
Serena Jiyeon Kim
Heather Zi-Yao Kong
Piyusha Kundu
Yea Won Lee
Kaitlyn Ying Liu
Charlotte T A Lo
Amanda Eve Lopatin
Samantha Jean Lowe
Rebecca Caitlin Mak
Radha Malhotra
Sara Jordan Mansfield
Sujay Pavansai Marisetty
Elizabeth Elaine Martin
Casley Rose Matthews
Emily Jeanette Adele McGhee
Benjamin Ericson Murdoch
Helena Maria Nammour
Margarita Nino
Esteban Pantoja
Rebekah Julie Park
Ashley N. Pena
Cheng Peng
Stephen Peng
Mackenzie Kaitlyn Pickett
Noah Elias Rabkin
Max L. Ruiz
Paige A. Russell
James Martin Sanders
Lindsey Eleanor Schirn
Ashay Abhay Shah
Ashna Abhay Shah
Matthew Enniss Sheets
Amirtha Shekar
Jin Hee Shin
Zouyi Sun
Andrew Wei Tang
Mayuri Hana Vaish
Emily Wang
Karen Wang
Andreas Hunter Weyland
Katherine P. Wu
Linda Ling Wu
Jin Yan
Kevin Xincheng Yin
Matthew Yu Zhang

Pi Delta Phi

Terri-Jeanne Esther Liu
Rebekah Julie Park
Grace Elizabeth Stewart

Pi Sigma Alpha

Chidimma Nneka Alilonu
Harry Jacob Golen
Anushka Gupta
Daniel Kenneth Helmeci
William Travis Heston
Kirsty Alice Leech
Andrea Lara Lin
Shiloh Eve Miller
Jenny Hayoung Park
Noah Elias Rabkin
Kavya Sahni
Matthew Enniss Sheets
Elaine Y. Zhang

Psi Chi

Brianna Bennion

College Honors

Baker College

Baker Academic Mentors
Chima Adiole

Baker College Fellows
Junyong Peter Chung
Brian Cui
Ronit Rishi Dey
Connor Lehn Hughes
Marina Karki
Jennifer Ling Li
Claire Olivia Mobed
Jacob Alexander Morgan
David Ethan Pichardo
Noah T. Rossi

Baker College Greg Marshall Award
Rodrigo Javier Barquero

Baker College Special Award
Abayomi O. Dada
Jennifer Ling Li

McIntosh Award
Linda Ling Wu

Minter Award
Liza Yusem Carstens

Philpott Award
Marina Karki

Will Rice College

Gilbert Cuthbertson Service Award
Henry Woodrow Thurman

James A. Castañeda Award
Catherine Yunshin Lee

Sam and Helen Worden Will Rice College Endowed Award
Jayaker Sai Kolli
Asha Kartini Malani

Hanszen College

Charles D. Pomerening Memorial Sports Award
Danielle Sara Knobloch
Tanuj Jitendra Prajapati

Daniel Brown Benbow Award
Colter Joe Decker

Dustin Stowe Memorial Award
Zachary Thomas Rewolinski

Hanszen College Senior Service Award
Corey William Donovan
Danielle Sara Knobloch
Sara Jordan Mansfield
Hope Christina Moustakakis
Amber Elizabeth Pitre

Hanszen Mentors
Sawyer Glen Archer
Truman Scott Archer
Eliot Itzkow Behr
Saiabhiroop R. Govindu
Aaron Jia-En Lin
Ananda Lahari Nandigam
Arvind Vignesh Ramesh
Zachary Thomas Rewolinski
Juan Manuel Rubio

Hanszen Rice Service Award
Anthony Karan Guzzo

Judge Woodrow Seals Community Service Award
Madhumithaa Venkatesalu

McAdam Griffin Family Award
Danielle Sara Knobloch

Wiess College

Daniel M. Caesar Memorial Award
Adrian Hines Almy
Jennifer Severn Pruitt

Magisters' Award for Special Service
Adrian Hines Almy
Ridwana Faiz Islam
Jennifer Severn Pruitt
Amirtha Shekar
Corey Charles Tolbert
Edward Davis Walker III

Wiess Academic Mentors
Diana L. Alvarado
Fabiola Flores-Salazar
Ridwana Faiz Islam
Amirtha Shekar
Mbonobong O. Usua
Gerardo Vega Jr.
Edward Davis Walker III

Wiess College Senior Service Award
Diana L. Alvarado
Anna Liu Bai
Roberto Brevi
Gabriela Beatriz Perez
Myritney Vioray Saint-Cloud
Matthew Enniss Sheets

Jones College

Captain Jiba Award
Wyeth Michael Kuntz McKinley
Sofia Elena Roa

Daniel G. Huffaker Memorial Award
Hafsa Ahsan
Andrea M. Gomez
Alexander Herrera

Extraordinary Dedication to College
Thomas M. Gill
Jay Henry Shisler
Tiffany Mai-Phuong Vuong

Franz and Frances Brotzen Outstanding Senior Award
Georgia Isabel Nevin

Geoffrey S. "Skip" Wise Memorial Award
Lucy Katherine Gruber
Candi Zhao

Graham Stebbings Jones College Service Award
Terri-Jeanne Esther Liu
Yessenia Ramos Silva

J. Dennis Huston Sports Award
Karl Knipe Abramson

Jones Ambassador Award
Amy Lin Ho
Allison J. Johnson
Neha Tallapragada

Jones College Academic Fellows
Kami Leigh Boutotte
Fiona Sullivan Garrison
Yannie Shannon Guo
Terri-Jeanne Esther Liu
Samantha Jean Lowe
Abrar Fahim Mamun
Warda Ahmed Mohamed
Raiya Joy Myren
Neha Tallapragada
Grace Nicole Walters

Jones Forever Award
Harry Jacob Golen

Jones Wins Again Award
Mahmoud H. Al-Madi
Mary E. Brady
Theodore Marie Baptiste Vadot

Magisters' and President's Award
Jackson Rhett Armstrong Jeffcoat
Samantha Jean Lowe
Kwame Kufour Ntim

Shelley Pennington Award
Daniel Kenneth Helmeci

Brown College

Brelsford Award
Benjamin P. Baker-Katz

Brown College President's Award
Adam Darius Zawierucha

Brown College Service Award
Daanish S. Sheikh

Brown College Society of Academic Fellows
Gowri Mukunda Iyengar
Serena Jiyeon Kim
Nicolas Craig Rossi
Arnav Sankaranthi
Adam Darius Zawierucha

Donald R. Baker Senior Scholarship
Kaichun Luo

College Honors, *continued*

Emma Hutchinson Award
Mackenzie Kaitlyn Pickett

Franz and Frances Brotzen Award
Grace Kathryn Kneidel

Nancy Henry Award
Jasmine Mikaela Manansala

Patrick Gordon Award
Justice Monea Coutee-McCullum

Paul and Ruth Pfeiffer Award
Anna C. Frey
Lingkun Guo
Christelle Morency
Madelynn Ariel Salinas
Bria Taylor Weisz
Jermya Alise Wilson

Senior Service Award
Bria Taylor Weisz

Soorya Avali Award
Ashley Tam An Duong

Lovett College

Edgar Odell Lovett Service Award
Elysia J. Wu

Lovett College Outstanding Senior Awards
Neil Chopra
Ryan M. Draper
Nicholas Ryan Ess
Michael P. Kelley
Jessica Nicole Kies
Matan Alon Lieber-Kotz
Adarsh Suresh
Andrew Wei Tang
Elysia J. Wu

Lovett College Society of Academic Fellows
Nisa Naz Ilsin
Praneeta Anjanasai Nalluri
Ruoyu Qian
Adrien Alexandre Quant

Lovett College Sports Awards
Luke Han
Jessica Nicole Kies

Toni Paine Award
Dania Mohammad Alqarawi
Adrien Alexandre Quant

Sid Richardson College

Athenian Award
Sara Sunhee Koh
Evan Lenkeit
Angela Lin
Jacob Lurvey
Maria Alejandra Mora
Ezra Packard Smith
Anika Sonig

Churchill Scholarship
Joseph A. Asfouri

Jonathan Bailey Distinguished Student Athlete Award
JoVoni OKeith Johnson-McCray

Sid Richardson College Fellows
Alyssa Bernadette Villarente Cahoy
Darren Yavuz Corapcioglu
Corina B. Do
Andrew Thomas Graziano
Michael Hua Li
Charlotte T. A. Lo
Stephanie Martinez
Maria Alejandra Mora
Robert Augustus Ragland IV
Savannah Jean Tiemann
MaeLea Monina Williams

Sid Richardson College Magisters' Award for Outstanding Achievement
Cynthia Adriana Gonzalez

Martel College

Distinguished Seniors
Qiuyang Jia
Christian Essam Salameh

George Miner Rice University Service Award
Malaika Joy Bergner
Stella Nicole Potemkin

Maria Byrne Award
James Liu

Marian Fox Martel Scholar Award
Mark Anthony Abboud

Martel Mentors
Mark Anthony Abboud
David Ai
John Philip Bodnar
Zhi Mei Sonia He
Austin Thomas Hushower
Oliver Sebastian Hutt-Sierra

Ralph S. O'Connor Outstanding Senior Award
Austin Thomas Hushower
Casley Rose Matthews

Social Change and Inclusion Award
Akaya Chambers
Cole Walker Thompson

Speros P. Martel Outstanding Service Award
Mark Anthony Abboud

Unsung Hero Award
Ankit D. Patel
Shriya Ankit Shah

McMurtry College

Burt and Deedee McMurtry Service Award
Hunter Clayton Brown

McMurtry Fellows
Rajpal Singh Bal
Mimi Yung Hsin Chang
Shreya Jain
Brandon Nicholas Khek
Josselyn Saiasi Munoz
Jordan T. Ngo
Manshi P. Patel
Aman Shanbhag
Eliot Hutton Solomon
Annabelle S. Tzou
Camille Francesca Villar
Brandon Lee Zimmer

McMurtry Outstanding Senior
Jazmine Destinee Castillo

Duncan College

Drayton Thomas Spirit Award for Duncan College
Kathryn Olivia Gonzalez

Duncan College Academic Fellows
Suzanne Frances Harms
Yinghua He
Aanika Kashyap
Helena Maria Nammour
Esteban Pantoja
Abinav Sankaranthi
Saksham Vashistha

Duncan Senior Award
Anesu Karen Murambadoro

Jeremy Reiskind Sportsmanship Award
Joseph Murphy Oneill

Lachezar Vladimirov Hristov and Clara Katharine Roberts Award
Zahrah Butler
Matthew Christopher Yonas

Magisters' Award for Outstanding College Leadership
Nicholas I. Thevenin

Mentorship Award
Kennedy Hannah Kovin

Unsung Hero Award
Max L. Ruiz

w

2023 Commencement Marshals

Chief Marshal
Fred Oswald

Security Marshals
Dave Johnson, Head Marshal
Alberto Pimpinelli
Helen Toombs
Tracy Volz

Platform Marshals
Gustavo Grullon, Head Marshal
Damian Blättler
Kevin Crotty
Vicky Yao

Advanced Degrees Marshals
James Weston, Head Marshal
Guha Balakrishnan
Alan Crane
Agustina Fernandez-Moya
Ashok Veeraraghavan

Doctoral Marshals
Jim Elliott, Head Marshal
Tony Brown
Brielle Bryan
Anna Rhodes
Elizabeth Roberto

Undergraduate Marshals
Chris Mize, Head Marshal
Saad Ansari
Kerri Barber
Jamie Catanese
Carlos Escobedo
Nick Espinosa
Greg Fitch
Alana Holmes
Ewart Jones
Mack Joyner
Laura Kabiri
Jessica Krom
Stephanie Parker
Matt Patterson
Ian Schimmel
Ric Stoll
Faten Tayeh
George Webb
Matt Wells
Kirsten Westmoreland
Kasey Leigh Yearty
Joseph Young
Lam Yu
Rebecca Yu

Military Appointments

Commissioned Ensign U.S. Navy
Anna Frey

Commissioned Ensign U.S. Navy
Caroline Holland

Association of Rice Alumni

Welcome to the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA), Class of 2023! The ARA was founded in 1919 to continue the relationship between the university and its alumni. One hundred years later, the ARA has more than 60,000 members worldwide. There are no membership dues to join; as a Rice graduate, you are immediately part of this global community. Wherever you are in the world, you can stay in touch via Sallyportal. Log in or create an account at sallyportal.org to connect with fellow alumni.

Keep your contact information up to date to receive the latest information from Rice via the Rice Portal. To register, visit riceconnect.rice.edu and click on "login or register" to access your online community account. To view a calendar of all upcoming Rice alumni events and to learn more about Rice alumni groups, visit alumni.rice.edu.

Congratulations again, and welcome to the ARA!

2022–2023 Retirees

Retiring Faculty

Susan McIntosh
41 years of service

Rick Wilson
40 years of service

Donald Morrison
35 years of service

David Caprette
34 years of service

John Stroup
34 years of service

Michael Wolf
34 years of service

Robert Roux
33 years of service

Elizabeth O'Sullivan
30 years of service

Leone Buyse
26 years of service

Michael Webster
26 years of service

Beatrice González-Stephan
22 years of service

Alma Novotny
22 years of service

Krishna Palem
16 years of service

Retiring Staff

Charles Hammonds
44 years of service

Scottie Schroeder
44 years of service

Mary Hicks
37 years of service

Rhonda Bethea
36 years of service

Jeff Cox
35 years of service

Thomas LaVergne
35 years of service

Gloria Bean
32 years of service

Edita Lemus
32 years of service

Marie Wehrung
30 years of service

Kathy Collins
27 years of service

Carlos Cabello
26 years of service

Roger Rodriguez Jr.
25 years of service

Carolyn Donath
24 years of service

Arnold Chee
22 years of service

Roger Elkhouri
22 years of service

LouAnn Holmes
22 years of service

Maria Johnson
22 years of service

Derrix Norman
22 years of service

Gary Spears
22 years of service

Angelo Benedetto
21 years of service

Ahmed Mihabi
21 years of service

Richard A. Zansitis
21 years of service

Sonia Amador
20 years of service

Gloria Arreola
20 years of service

Guadalupe Casanova
20 years of service

Barry Ribbeck
19 years of service

Y. Ping Sun
19 years of service

Yolanda Avalos
18 years of service

Servando Canales
18 years of service

Ingrid Chang
18 years of service

Carmen Thompson
18 years of service

Kelly Campbell
17 years of service

Kathy Jones
17 years of service

Eric Jordan
17 years of service

Son Morgan
17 years of service

John Cornwell
16 years of service

Carol Herbert
16 years of service

Kevin Kirby
16 years of service

Linda Bird
15 years of service

Terry Diaz
15 years of service

Jerry Pickle
15 years of service

Monica Rivero
15 years of service

Anne Walker
15 years of service

Libby Wilson
15 years of service

Lianne Hart
14 years of service

Tish Stringer
14 years of service

Catalina Cardona
13 years of service

Scott Warren
13 years of service

Vilma Perez
12 years of service

Samuel Smith
12 years of service

Diane Yee
12 years of service

Janice Joe
11 years of service

Susan Krause
11 years of service

Michael Castilleja
10 years of service

Debbie Diamond
10 years of service

Jill Hughes
10 years of service

Susan Merz
10 years of service

In Memoriam

Robert Curl
64 years of service

Arthur Few
53 years of service

John Paul Hempel
51 years of service

Katherine Fischer Drew
48 years of service

Sam H. Davis Jr.
43 years of service

Marc Robert
38 years of service

Sandy Havens
36 years of service

Larry Rachleff
31 years of service

Alex Dessler
30 years of service

Nanxiu Qian
29 years of service

Nestor Baldemor
25 years of service

J.E. (Jason) Lyons
22 years of service

Manik Talwani
21 years of service

Steven Murdock
9 years of service

Notes on Commencement

The Commencement Ceremony

Rice Commencement features two distinct kinds of ceremonial elements: the focus on individual degree recipients as they are named, presented and congratulated and the focus on the communal experiences of graduation through the student procession, speeches and the conferral of degrees.

Each of the four commencement ceremonies features the individual recognition of graduating students as they cross the stage and receive congratulations along with a ceremonial diploma tube. The candidates for each degree are presented as a group by the appropriate university official. The dean of graduate and postdoctoral studies, assisted by the academic deans, presents all the advanced degree candidates. The dean of undergraduates, assisted by the college magisters, presents the undergraduate degree candidates. The president formally confers the degrees earned.

At each ceremony, remarks from university leaders celebrate the community of graduates. As the final ceremony of the commencement weekend, the undergraduate ceremony features the commencement speaker and the singing of Rice's alma mater. It concludes with a short fireworks display.

The Rice Diploma

Rice diplomas are unusually large, measuring approximately 18 inches by 23 inches. The text is arranged to resemble the general shape of an urn. Tradition holds that the shape is a Grecian urn, since it is known that President Edgar Odell Lovett, an admirer of the classics, designed and composed the diploma. Above the text, the academic seal of Rice University is embossed in gold.

The degree recipients will receive their actual diplomas over the summer.

Academic Procession

The academic procession, an essential part of most Commencement exercises, has its origin in the clerical procession of church history.

The procession is composed of two groups: the candidates to receive degrees, and the Rice board of trustees members, faculty and administration. The university marshals, distinguished by their blue and gray gowns and soft, Cambridge-style caps, are responsible for directing the participants throughout the ceremony.

Candidates for advanced degrees process into Tudor Fieldhouse by school, led by the Brown School of Engineering. The procession is led by the chief marshal and the president. The president is followed by the members of the board of trustees and the faculty, in order of academic rank and, within rank, in order of seniority.

The undergraduate candidates for bachelor's degrees assemble with their residential colleges. Led by the magisters and college presidents, the candidates proceed to Rice Stadium. Students chosen as assistants to the marshals escort each college. Baker, the oldest residential college, leads the undergraduate procession, followed in order by Will Rice, Hanszen, Wiess, Jones and Brown. Lovett leads the remaining colleges, followed by Sid Richardson, Martel, McMurtry and Duncan.

A fanfare sounds to signal the start of the procession. The procession is led by the color guard, the chief marshal and the president. The president is followed by the members of the board of trustees and the faculty, in order of academic rank and, within rank, in order of seniority. Accompanying the color guard are a university delegation with representatives of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, undergraduate Student Association, Graduate Student Association and Association of Rice Alumni. The procession ends when the mace is placed on its stand at the front of the platform.

The ceremony concludes with a recessional march. The assembly will first sing Rice's alma mater. Afterward, the chief marshal raises the mace to signal the start of the march. The degree recipients march out through the stadium tunnel; the faculty, administration and Rice Board of Trustees march up the ramp. The recessional concludes the Commencement ceremony.

Academic Regalia

The resemblance of academic regalia to the robes of religious orders is no coincidence; the caps, gowns and hoods worn today have their origins in the Middle Ages, when universities were church institutions and both teachers and scholars were clerics.

U.S. colleges and universities adopted their own uniform code of academic dress in 1895. While the code has been modified since, the costume still reflects a rich tradition of Western higher education. If one is familiar with the basic accoutrements and with what shape, color and material can signify, then the academic procession and the commencement exercise will have more meaning.

Three main garments compose the regalia — cap, gown and hood. In addition, a stole is worn by many at Rice to indicate an affiliation with one of Rice's residential colleges.

The caps and gowns worn by graduates of U.S. colleges and universities vary only slightly from school to school, and from these the highest level of academic degree that the wearer has earned can be determined. Undergraduates serving today as ushers and assistants to the marshals are wearing bachelor's gowns of royal blue.

The mortarboard, or Oxford-style cap, is worn by most

members of the academic procession. It is usually black. The tassel of the cap may be black, or it may be a color indicating the discipline in which the degree was earned. It may be metallic gold for doctors, governing officials of the university and persons being specially honored during the program.

The gown, too, is usually black, though there are exceptions. Harvard, for example, allows a crimson gown; Yale, a blue gown; and Princeton, a black gown appointed in orange. The bachelor's gown is the simplest in design and has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown, which is slightly more elaborate, has oblong sleeves open at the wrist. The doctor's gown is, appropriately, the most elaborate — velvet trim runs down the front and around the neck, and three velvet bars decorate the bell-shaped sleeves. Special blue gowns for Rice doctoral students were introduced at the 1997 Commencement.

The third costume component, the hood, is the most symbolic. The hood's length and the width of its velvet trim indicate the level of the earned degree. The color of the velvet trim indicates the academic field in which the degree has been earned.

For undergraduate degrees, a palette of four colors denotes a specific academic field:

Golden yellow — Science and Engineering
White — Humanities and Social Sciences
Pink — Music
Brown — Architecture

For graduate degrees, an expanded palette denotes a specific academic field:

White — Arts, Letters and Humanities
Drab — Commerce, Accountancy and Business
Copper — Economics
Light blue — Education
Orange — Engineering
Brown — Fine Arts and Architecture
Pink — Music
Dark blue — Philosophy
Sage green — Kinesiology
Golden yellow — Science

The hood also identifies the institution at which the wearer took his or her degree. It is worn to expose the colors in its lining. In 1985, most schools adopted a chevron for their hoods. Because of the limited number of colors selected, duplication of designs is common. The Rice hood has a blue lining with a single gray chevron.

Degrees

All Rice degrees have been awarded for work done in course. Rice does not award honorary degrees. The Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Music degrees normally require four years. The Bachelor of Architecture degree requires two years beyond the B.A., including one spent on preceptorship with an architectural firm.

The Master of Arts degree and the Master of Science degree often require two years and the presentation of a thesis, but in some departments students are eligible for a master's degree without submitting a thesis once they have been admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. Rice awards a number of professional master's degrees that normally require one or two years of concentrated training in a specified field beyond the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.

The Artist Diploma in Music is awarded at the completion of a two-year course of study beyond the master's degree. The curriculum prepares students for a career focused on performance at the highest levels.

The Diploma in Liberal Studies is awarded at the completion of a two-year course of study beyond the master's degree. The curriculum extends the educational goals of the Master of Liberal Studies program and allows students to deepen their interdisciplinary knowledge and lay the groundwork for contributions to their community in the form of critical publications, community service, doctoral studies or career work.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded after successful completion of a program of advanced study and scholarly research culminating in a written dissertation. As final evidence of preparation for the degree, the candidate must pass a public oral examination. Normally three or more years are required to complete the graduate study leading to the Ph.D. degree. The equivalent degree in architecture is the Doctor of Architecture. The Doctor of Musical Arts is awarded after completion of a program of advanced study and required performances or original compositions.

Undergraduate Honors

Undergraduate honors, based on the grade point average of academic work done at Rice University, are awarded to degree recipients being conferred the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Music.

Distinction in Research and Creative Work is a university honor bestowed by the faculty in individual departments. The specific requirements vary among departments. Students must apply for the honor, and the application requires a supporting letter from a faculty member.

Approximately 5% of the students graduate with highest honors (summa cum laude), the next 10% graduate with high honors (magna cum laude) and the next 15% graduate with honors (cum laude).

Insignia of the Graduate Student Association and Residential Colleges

Each residential college has its own emblem, which is displayed on its banner and carried in the procession. The Graduate Student Association banner, displaying its shield, precedes the doctoral, master's and special bachelor's degree candidates.

Graduate Student Association

The shield of the Graduate Student Association features eight lozenges representing the university's eight schools that offer graduate programs. The grackle is the mascot of the association, and the two grackles in the emblem represent students in the two types of advanced degree programs at Rice — professional and research.

Baker College

Magisters, Luis Duno-Gottberg and Angela Duno

Members wear red stoles with the college crest. In addition, silver piping adorns the stoles worn by the magisters, faculty associates and winners of the Baker College Service Awards (Baker Fellows).

Will Rice College

Magisters, Matthew and Rebekah Bennett

Members and faculty associates wear rust stoles with a white border that bear the college crest. A gold border is on the stoles worn by the magisters, the Will Rice Fellows and award winners.

Hanszen College

Magisters, Fabiola López-Durán and Carlos Martinez-Rivera

Members, magisters and faculty associates wear black and smoke-blue stoles displaying the college crest. Hanszen Mentors also wear blue and yellow honor cords.

Wiess College

Magisters, Flavio Cunha and Fabiana Alves dos Santos

Members, magisters and faculty associates wear gold stoles displaying the college crest.

Jones College

Magisters, Zachary and Trisha Ball

Members and faculty wear green stoles displaying the college crest. Jones Fellows wear a purple honor cord.

Brown College

Magisters, B.J. and Shirley Fregly

Members and faculty associates wear yellow stoles displaying the college crest. A maroon border is on the stoles worn by current and past magisters. Brown Fellows wear a burgundy cord.

Lovett College

Magisters, Mike Gustin and Denise Klein

Members, magisters and faculty associates wear blue stoles displaying the college crest. A cream border is on the stoles worn by the Lovett Fellows. A gold border is on the stoles worn by the Lovett magisters.

Sid Richardson College

Magister, Melissa Marschall

Members, magisters and faculty associates wear white stoles displaying the college crest. Two gold stars appear on the left side of the stoles worn by Sid Richardson Fellows.

Martel College

Magisters, Daniel Domingues da Silva and Livia Borges Domingues

Members wear a light blue stole displaying the college crest. Magisters, resident associates, distinguished graduates and honored members wear light blue stoles and dark red cords. Martel Mentors wear light blue cords.

McMurtry College

Magisters, Jenifer Bratter and Noe Perez

Members, magisters and faculty residential associates wear a purple stole displaying the college crest. A silver border adorns the McMurtry Fellows' stoles.

Duncan College

Magisters, Eden King and Winston Liaw

Members wear a forest-green stole embroidered with the college name and crest. Magisters, Duncan Fellows, resident fellows, and faculty and resident associates wear a gold honor cord.

Academic Insignia

The original university shield was designed by the artist Pierre de Chaignon la Rose of Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the opening of the Rice Institute in 1912. To create the design, la Rose combined the main elements of the coats of arms of several prominent families named Rice or Houston. The elements featured within the shield are a double chevron and three owls of Athena, symbols of wisdom, selected as charges. The form of the owls was taken from a Greek coin dating from the fifth century B.C. The Rice shield can be seen on the cornerstone of Lovett Hall and on the flag of the university, along with the shield of the state of Texas.

Because Rice University was dedicated by its founder to the advancement of "letters, science and art," these words were incorporated into the design of Rice's academic seal. The seal is prominently displayed on the emblem of authority at the ceremony, the university mace. Carried by the chief marshal, the meter-long mace has a walnut staff with a golden owl atop it. Engraved on four sides of the cube on which the owl sits are the initials WRU, for William Rice University, and the academic seal.

A Brief History of Rice

The William M. Rice Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art filed its state charter in the Texas capital May 19, 1891. The original charter stipulated that the institute would charge no tuition and would be for "the instruction and improvement of the white inhabitants of the City of Houston and State of Texas." The institute was founded with a bequest of $4.6 million from the estate of William Marsh Rice, a merchant who arrived in Texas in 1838 and soon thereafter moved to the newly founded city of Houston. In the 1840s and 1850s, he accumulated his wealth by providing supplies to plantation owners and selling cotton and sugar crops produced in large part by enslaved labor. Rice, too, owned and benefited from their labor. After the Civil War, he took the oath of loyalty to the restored United States and lived thereafter in New Jersey and New York, while keeping a close eye on his many ongoing profitable endeavors in Texas. The childless Rice was murdered September 23, 1900, in New York by his butler and lawyer in an attempt to steal his fortune. After considerable litigation, Rice's bequest was deployed in 1904 toward the purpose he intended — his namesake institute in the rapidly growing city of Houston. The institute's trustees selected Edgar Odell Lovett, a mathematician from Princeton University, to serve as the first president and sent him on an international trip to bring back the best pedagogical practices, ideas and personnel.

From October 10–12, 1912, the Rice Institute celebrated its opening with lectures by eminent guests from around the world. President Lovett proclaimed that he and his colleagues planned "to assign no upper limit to its educational endeavor." With 77 male and female students and a faculty of about a dozen in its opening year, the institute quickly grew in size and importance, led by Lovett and James Addison Baker Jr., who chaired Rice's Board of Trustees from 1891 to 1941. By the time Lovett stepped down as president in 1946, the institute was a key part of a booming city of more than half a million residents.

From its beginning, the Rice Institute's goals included graduate programs, with the first doctorate awarded in 1918. In the 1950s, under President William Vermillion Houston, who served from 1946 to 1960 (during which the residential college system and the annual Beer Bike competition began), the institute expanded its ambitions. Graduate offerings steadily increased in the sciences and engineering and came to include the humanities and social sciences. On July 1, 1960, the Rice Institute was renamed William Marsh Rice University. In 1962, Rice celebrated its semicentennial led by President Kenneth Sanborn Pitzer, who throughout his leadership from 1961 to 1968 deepened the university's commitment to research and guided the founding of the School of Architecture in 1965.

Until the early 1960s, the university prohibited the admission of Black students. Growing national pressure from funding and accrediting agencies alongside the larger moral and political pressures of the Civil Rights Movement compelled Rice's trustees to desegregate the university and begin a legal process to remove racial barriers from its charter. The first Black student to be enrolled was mathematics graduate student Raymond Lewis Johnson in 1964. In fall 1965, the first two Black undergraduate students arrived — Charles Edward Freeman III and Jacqueline Elizabeth McCauley. These first three students were subsequently joined by an increasing number of Black students who brought further distinction to the university and who continued to push for full acceptance by the rest of the Rice community. That same year, Rice began charging tuition for the first time and launched a $33 million development campaign.

During and after the Cold War, Rice took advantage of a boom in available research funding. President Norman Hackerman, who served from 1970 to 1985, oversaw the debut of the Shepherd School of Music and the Jones Graduate School of Administration, now the Jones Graduate School of Business. In 1975, the Division of Science and Engineering divided into the George R. Brown School of Engineering and the School of Natural Sciences, now the Wiess School of Natural Sciences. The Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences separated into two schools in 1979. In 1985, Rice joined the Association of American Universities, an invitation-only group of leading research universities in North America. Rice President George Erik Rupp, who served from 1985 to 1993, led the creation of several interdisciplinary centers. Innovative

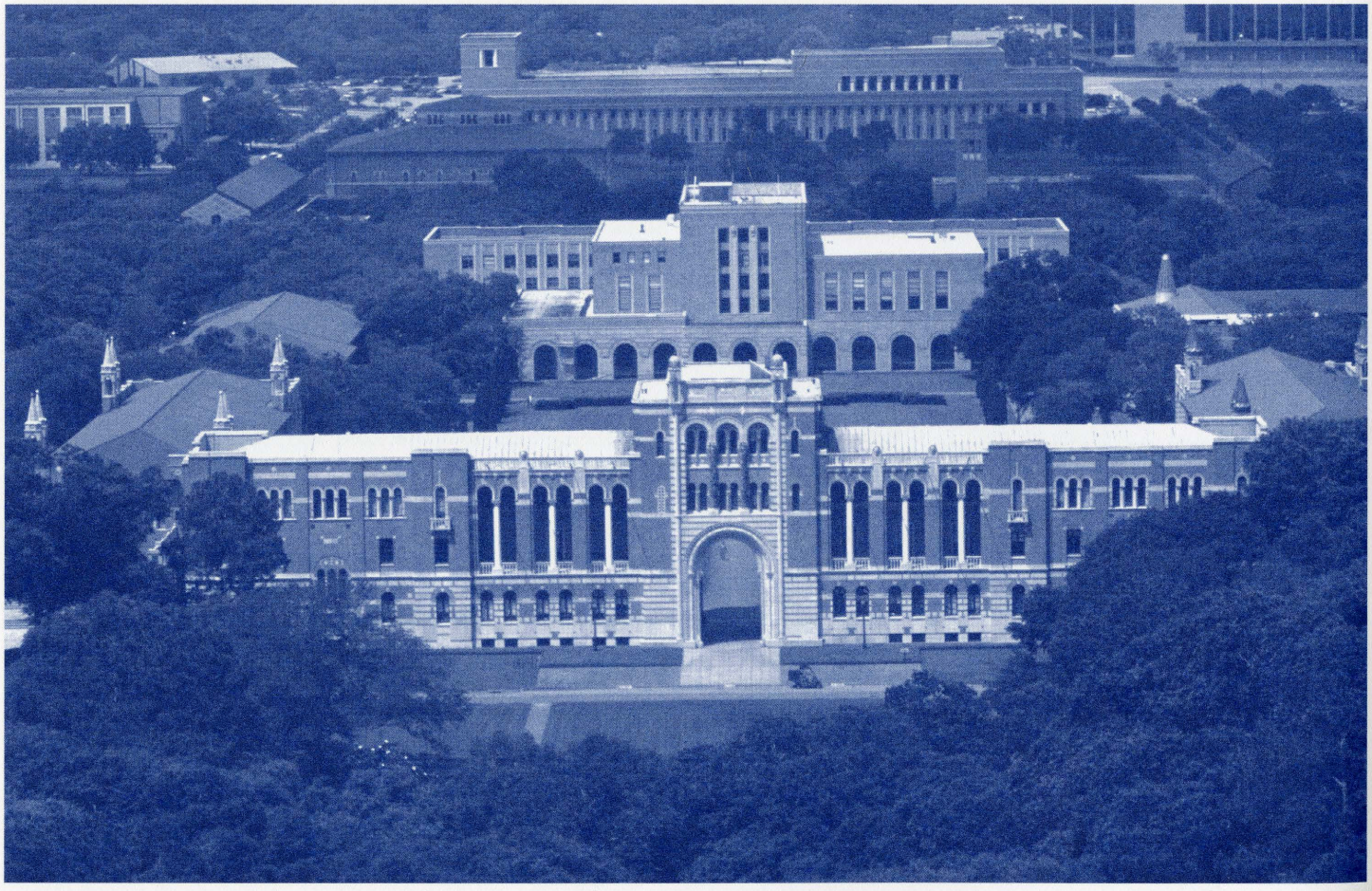
faculty forged into new fields such as nanotechnology, where professors Robert F. Curl Jr. and Richard E. Smalley shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1996. As a result of these continued advancements, Rice has consistently earned a ranking among the nation's top 20 research universities.

Under the administration of President S. Malcolm Gillis from 1993 to 2004, the university dramatically expanded its international character by welcoming more students from abroad and building partnerships with institutions around the world. At the same time, the university continued to deepen its commitment to its home city of Houston, expanding partnerships with local industry and the Texas Medical Center. The Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies brings thousands of Houstonians to campus each year for learning opportunities and personal and professional development. The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, founded in 1993, provides vital insight to local and national policymakers on the important questions of the day.

For nearly two decades, under the leadership of President David W. Leebron from 2004 to 2022, the university continued to expand its local and global footprint under a period of tremendous growth, punctuated by new programs and facilities like the Kinder Institute for Urban Research in 2010, the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance in 2013, the Doerr Institute for New Leaders in 2015, the Moody Center for the Arts in 2017, the Liu Idea Lab for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2017, the Ion in 2021 and the Brockman Hall for Opera in 2022.

In 2019, the university launched a new financial aid policy, The Rice Investment, that deepens and extends its ongoing commitment to need-based scholarships for low- and middle-income students. With the generosity of untold individuals and foundations, Rice's endowment has kept pace with its burgeoning enrollment and expanding infrastructure and programming. The endowment of $10 million in 1913 grew to $7.8 billion as President Reginald DesRoches, Rice University's first Black president, took office July 1, 2022.

As its resources have increased, Rice has served a flourishing and diverse student population. For fall 2022, degree-seeking undergraduate students totaled 4,480, alongside 4,085 degree-seeking graduate students. At matriculation, Asian Americans composed 29% of the Class of 2026. Students identifying as Hispanic or Latino were 17% of that group, and Black students made up 8%. A growing segment of undergraduate and graduate students at Rice hail from more than 60 countries around the world. Rice has 749 full-time faculty members and 147 part-time faculty members. Already in the midst of a strategic planning process and a $2 billion fundraising campaign, the university will continue to build and evolve, ever aiming for a bolder future.



Commencement at Rice

Rice Institute's first graduation exercises were held Sunday and Monday, June 11 and 12, 1916. The baccalaureate on Sunday included a sermon and the singing of Latin and English hymns. At Commencement on Monday, Rice awarded its first Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees. Dr. David Starr Jordan, chancellor emeritus of Stanford University, addressed the 36 candidates for degrees and their families on the subject "Is War Eternal?" That same June, President Woodrow Wilson, longtime friend and former Princeton colleague of Lovett, was working for a negotiated settlement to hostilities in Europe. Ten months later, the United States officially entered World War I.

Since that first graduation, the ceremonies have been held, at different times, in the Academic Quadrangle, in the courtyard of the chemistry laboratories, in the Rice gymnasium, and in local high schools and churches. In 1960, Commencement was moved to the front of Lovett Hall. Baccalaureate and Commencement were combined for the first time in 1972 by President Norman Hackerman. In 1986, President George Rupp returned the ceremony to a morning event in the Academic Quadrangle, site of the first Commencement.

In 2014, President Leebron reorganized Commencement. Growth in the number of degree recipients was making the single unified Saturday ceremony untenably long. The model for Commencement had each student presented at a Friday ceremony — retaining the Rice tradition of presenting and congratulating each student as an individual — followed by the conferral of degrees in a plenary ceremony Saturday morning.

With an increase in the size of the graduating classes, a committee was formed in 2022 to develop a vision for current and future graduation ceremonies. Based on this committee's recommendations, beginning in 2023 Rice now has four separate commencement ceremonies at which each graduating student is recognized by name as they cross the stage: Master of Business Administration Ceremony, Doctoral Ceremony, Advanced Degrees Ceremony and Undergraduate Ceremony.

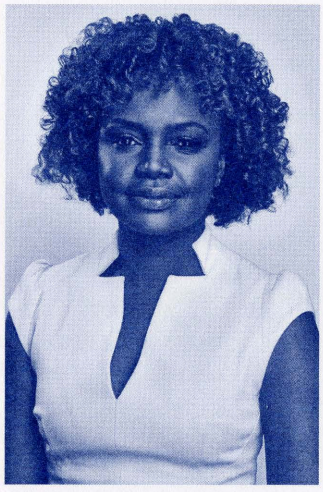
Lovett deeply loved the graduation ceremonies and guided them with great personal attention. His appreciation of the classics and his pride in the fact that Rice degrees were individually earned and diplomas individually conferred were always reflected in his remarks to Rice graduates.

Adjustments to Commencement were made on occasions during both World Wars. In 1917, a special graduation exercise was held at Camp Fuston, near San Antonio, for the 11 graduates who had volunteered for military service and were then in training. Later, the 31st Commencement, in June 1945, was followed by the 32nd in March 1946 and the 33rd in June 1946.

Owing to the sacrifices that we as a nation were asked to make during World War II, many Rice alumni were forced to forego graduation ceremonies at Rice. In honor of these individuals, the 1998 Commencement featured the presentation of a special certificate to war-era graduates who received their degrees in absentia.

Speaker, Karine Jean-Pierre

Karine Jean-Pierre is the White House press secretary and assistant to the president. Jean-Pierre is a long-time advisor to President Biden, having served in senior communication and political roles in the Biden administration, the Biden campaign and the Obama administration. Prior to her role in the Biden campaign, she served as chief public affairs officer for MoveOn and as an NBC and MSNBC political analyst. Jean-Pierre served as regional political director for the White House Office of Political Affairs during the Obama administration and as deputy battleground states director for President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. She also served as Southeast regional political director for President Obama's 2008 campaign, deputy campaign manager for Martin O'Malley for President, campaign manager for the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Initiative, and deputy chief of staff and director of legislative and budget affairs for two members in the New York City Council. Previously, she worked at the Center for Community and Corporate Ethics, pushing major companies to change their business practices, and is a published author. Born in Martinique and raised in New York, Jean-Pierre is a graduate of Columbia University.



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Guest Information

Directions

Ushers in blue robes are available to provide directions to the locations of restrooms, drinking water and first aid.

During the Ceremony

Guests are requested to turn off cellphones and to refrain from smoking during the Commencement ceremony. Rice is a tobacco-free campus, and we ask that you do not use tobacco products outside the 12 designated tobacco-use areas. The approved locations are marked with a sign that reads "Designated Tobacco-Use Area." The tobacco-use area nearest to Tudor Fieldhouse is located in the grassy area behind the building between Reckling Park and Lot 6. The tobacco-use area nearest to Rice Stadium is located in the grassy area of Tailgate Owley on the east side of the stadium. To make this a safe and enjoyable experience for all, we ask guests not to cross ropes or block the view of others. Please follow the directions of the marshals and ushers.

Photography and Videography

A still photograph of each degree recipient will be made by a professional photographer working on the platform. Complimentary cap and gown photo sessions will also be available in the Rice Memorial Center lobby May 6 from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Photographs will be offered for sale by the vendor, who will contact all graduates directly at their permanent addresses on file with the registrar within a few weeks following Commencement.

Each ceremony will also be professionally video recorded. These recordings will be available the week following Commencement on Rice's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/riceuniversity.

Family members and other guests are asked not to leave their seats to take photos during the ceremony. Photos of the platform and Jumbotron are permitted from the guest seating area only.

Restrooms, Water, First Aid

As noted on the maps, restrooms are open throughout Tudor Fieldhouse and on the concourses of Rice Stadium. Drinking water is available in locations within Tudor Fieldhouse and on the Rice Stadium concourses. Please contact an usher if you are in need of medical attention. First aid triage is located in Room 1101 in Tudor Fieldhouse and on the east concourse near section 115 in Rice Stadium.

Shuttle Bus

The campus Inner Loop route will run from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6.

Special Needs

Wheelchairs and seating for those with mobility issues — Special sections in the stadium and Tudor Fieldhouse are reserved for wheelchair users as well as those with mobility issues. Because of limited space in these sections, only one additional person will be able to join the guest requiring the special seating.

Hard of hearing — In Tudor Fieldhouse, special seating for those who need a direct view of the American Sign Language interpreter will be on the east side, in section 111.

In Rice Stadium, a portion of section 111 near Rice Stadium Entrance 3 is reserved for those who need a direct view of the American Sign Language interpreter.

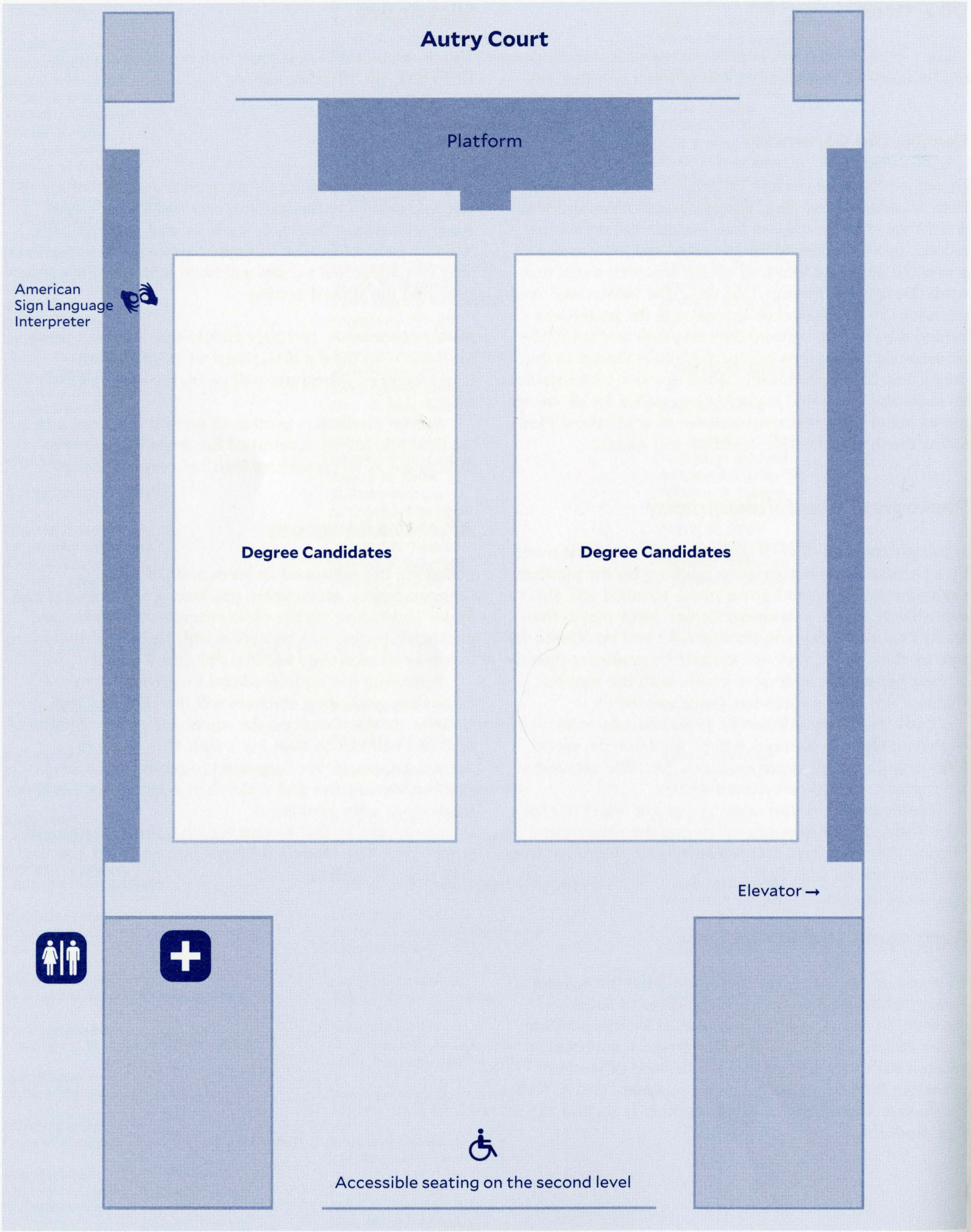
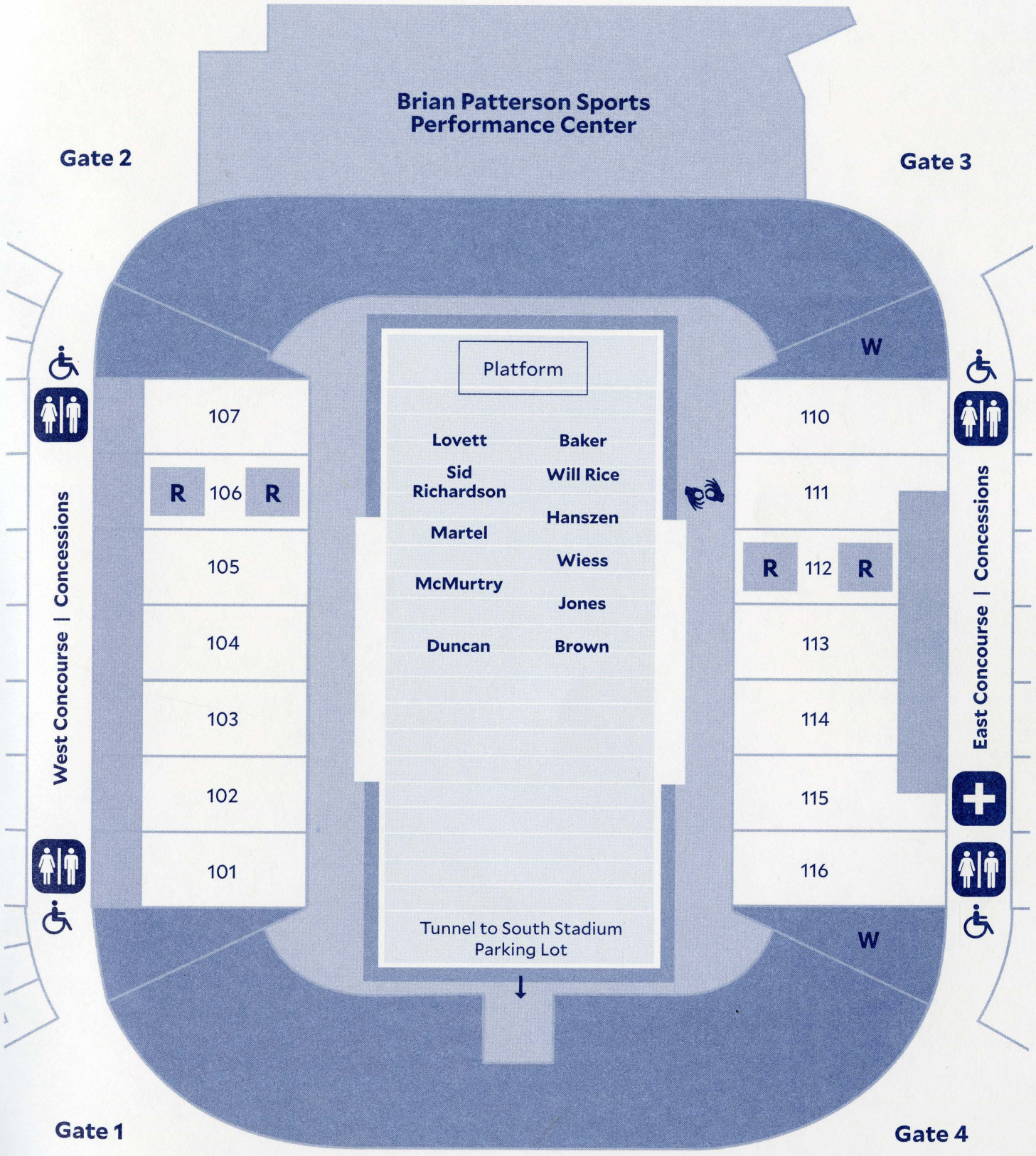
After the Ceremony

Following the Advanced Degrees and Doctoral Commencement ceremonies, graduating students will exit Tudor Fieldhouse via the main entrance. Graduates and guests are invited to a reception with light refreshments to follow each ceremony in Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

Following the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony, graduating students will march out of the stadium via the tunnel on the south side of Rice Stadium. Students will exit to West Lot 5 near Rice Stadium Entrance 4. Guests are requested to please exit the stadium via all gates and make their way to West Lot 5 to rendezvous with graduates.

Guests are invited to visit the Rice University Campus Store in the Rice Memorial Center between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Tudor Fieldhouse Map



Rice Stadium Map